



# the CARRIER.....

Published Monthly by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

MDARC FIELD DAY CALL W6CX; 2M REPEATER W6CX/R 220 REPEATER W6CX/R MEMORIAL CALL SIGN W6LGW

Volume XXX

March 1982

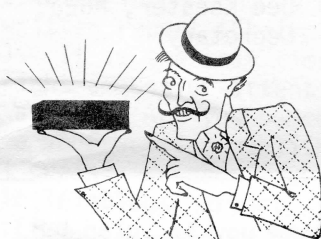
No. 3

"ALL THE NEWS FIT"

## Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will be held at our regular meeting place, Grace Presbyterian Church, 2100 Tice Valley Blvd., Walnut Creek, Friday March 19, 8PM

MDARC AUCTION NIGHT!



Peter - K06R

Bring your auction items at 6:00 PM to get them marked. Auction starts promptly at 7:00 PM. There are lots of donated items to auction off so use discretion in bringing items to sell. If its good junk bring it with you, if its junky-junk leave it home. If you can't decide bring it anyway. And don't forget to bring bucks \$\$\$\$ This promises to be one of the best Auctions ever.

## CLUB CALENDAR

- Mar. 18: DARC meets See Inside.  
Mar. 19: Auction night. Doors open 6:00PM  
Mar. 22: Board Meeting 8:00 P.M.  
County OES Bldg. 50 Glacier  
Dr. Martinez. Everyone is Welcome  
April 4: American Cancer Society Run for  
Daylight See Joe, WA6DQN  
Early April: Dublin Footrace  
April 17: Mount Diablo Trail Ride  
April 17-25: Health Fair  
April 25: March of Dimes, "Walk America"  
Every Tuesday: Ham classes 7:00 P.M.  
College Park High School

## Nets

"Ya all check in now ya Hear!"

Tech Forum/Swap NET  
Thursdays 7:30 P.M. 147.66/06

Contra Costa Emergency NET  
Thursdays 8:30 P.M., 146.43 MHz simp.

Parky NET  
Every Night 3895 +/- QRM 10 P.M.

DARC NET  
Thursdays 7PM on 146.54 MHz

EDITOR: Doug Smith, WA6GON P.O. Box 23222, Pleasant Hill, Calif. 94523 0222

PRESIDENT.....	KT6X	Dick Brown	4125 Sacramento St., Concord CA	94521 687-9048
VICE-PRESIDENT.....	WB6TEE	Don Peattie	2417 Lomond Ln. Walnut Creek CA	94598 935-2636
SECRETARY.....	N6EJU	Dee Koester	438 Diablo Court, Martinez, CA	94553 228-8727
TREASURER.....	KA6IZI	Nancy Hodgson	120 Summit Road Walnut Creek, CA	94598 933-8716
EMERGENCY COORDINATOR..	WA6OFI	Dave Greenhill	188 Brown Drive Pacheco, CA	94553 686-6657
BOARD MEMBER.....	K6XC	Ron Luttringer	440 Diablo Court, Martinez, CA	94553 229-3987
BOARD MEMBER.....	N6EEQ	Don Bertrand	1981 Willow Pass, Concord, CA	94520

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Next Board Meeting at: C.C. County O.E.S. Building, 50 Glacier Dr., Martinez, March 22, 8 P.M.

DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: Articles, Classified Ads, etc. by March 27, 1982

## MDARC Board Meeting

Feb. 22, 1982

QTH - O.E.S. 50 Glacier Dr., Martinez

The meeting was called to order at 8:01 by our President Dick Brown, KT6X, and as usual was very efficiently handled.

Board members present: Dick, KT6X, Dee, N6EJU, Nancy, KA6IZI, Dave, WA6OFI, Ron, K6XC.

Members present: Don, N6EEQ, Hank, W6ZHY, Rick, NA6Q, Val, KD6KV, Parky, K6IMV. *+WA6DQN*

Correction to the minutes are as follows:

The work excepted should read accepted pertaining to motion to inform Don Doughty. M.M.S.P: That minutes be accepted as corrected.

Bulk Postage: Being looked into by Nancy KA6IZI, and Don, W6EEN.

Club of the year: Ron, K6YC and Dick, KT6X will be compiling information given them by Committee Chairmen.

Operating events: Field Day, June 26 & 27 will be low key. Similar to last year.

Montgomery Ward operating event will be held Aug. 28 and 29 with Guy N6DTU, as Chairman.

Discussion on handouts with points of interest about MDARC.

Calendar of Events: updated by Don WB6TEE and will be typed by yours truly.

Club Jackets: Discussion took place on financing of such.

Free CARRIER list: tabled until next mtg.

Broken table: The Insurance Company is in the process of contacting the Church.

Repeater Chairman: Cecil, N6EBQ, reports that funds for the 147.66/06 antenna are now available and order is to go in hopefully Feb. 23. Goal is to have new antenna and new repeater for 2 meters ready to go up at the same time. Discussion took place on Phelps cavity for 220 machine.

Awards Chairman: Dick, KA6JGP, reports progress being made.

Change in 1982 budget: \$400.00 allotted for Roster.

Treasurer Nancy KA6IZI: reports that we have \$1,501.75 in checking and \$1,209.81 in savings.

Education: Discussion took place on financing and adjusting the budget accordingly.

Emergency Coordinator: Dave WA6OFI, announced that there will be another "Amateur Radio Emergency Group" meeting May 2 at the Contra Costa Water District. Time will be 2 to 4 P.M.

Directory: Floppy Disc with necessary info located.

Door Prize Chairman: Val, KD6KV reports balance on hand \$133.85.

Education Chairman: Not Present

Membership Chairman: Not Present

Public Service Chairman: ~~Not Present~~ *Present!*

Social Chairman Rick, NA6Q: location still

being sought for Christmas Party.

Auction Chairman: Not Present

Audit: Semi-annual financial report to be made available at a General Meeting rather than published in the CARRIER.

3.895 NET: Parky, K6IMV reports all going well with about 13 to 15 checking in.

New Business: Hank, W6ZHY, presented the Board with a demonstration on the use of Geiger Counters, for purpose of presenting at a future General Meeting and at next Radio Amateur Emergency Group meeting May 2.

M.M.S.P: that the 1982 budget be approved.

Meeting adjourned at 10:07.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dee Koester, N6EJU

Secretary

## Letters to the Editor

Please accept my note of appreciation for your gift to the American Cancer Society Memorial Program, in memory of my husband, Silent Key K6OE.

It is difficult to realize even now that his wonderful key and call are silenced. He thought so very much of that call! And he did not want to give it up!!

I continue to be interested in the radio club and would like to keep up on the news, and if allowable would like to continue membership and receive the CARRIER".

Kenneth's death, although not unexpected came suddenly in his sleep. The Ancologist was surprised - and so was I! Ken experienced no great pain while in hospital. For that we are thankful. Faith and friends, we care, comfort me.

Thank you again, and, as Ken would wish,

73 & 88

Helen Louise WA6D00  
(415)283-6622



## The President's Corner....

Are you ready to donate some of the amateur bands to cable television? You may not realize it, but that's what you're doing now. If you have any doubt, tune your two meter rig to 145.26 in Central Contra Costa County. Do you want the MDARC to take any action in support of your right to maintain these bands? Get yourself current on the subject by reading the February QST (Page 11), then let your Board hear from you.

By the way, one of the best ways to do that is come to the Board Meeting. One of our Committee Members recently expressed concern that he had not been invited to the Board Meeting. We hope everyone understands that you are definitely invited and needed at the Board. We meet at 8:00 PM on the Monday following the MDARC Meeting. It is usually a two hour agenda. Every committee head is represented in person, by his delegate or his written report (Chairpersons take note). It is the only time we can focus the right amount of attention to the issues at hand. Are you someone who likes to see your writing published in the local press? We need your help in our Public Relations' effort. You will get qualified help, if you want it. The duties are interesting and straightforward. The pay is poor but it could be a way for you to have a lot of fun.

Give me a call to talk about it.  
Dick KT6X

## Deadline Announcement

For your convenience, CARRIER article and Classified Ad deadlines through Dec. are the following: Mar. 27, Apr. 30, May 28, June 25, July 23, Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 26, Dec. 24. Contributors are encouraged to submit articles well in advance so our typists fingers don't ache so at the end of the month. Extensions will be granted as time permits. Your cooperation is appreciated. (Ed.)

## Renewing

Remember, when renewing ARRL membership do it through the club Treasurer. The Club gets to keep a portion of your ARRL dues!

## MDARC General Meeting

Feb. 19, 1982

The meeting was called to order at 8:02, by our President Dick Brown, KT6X. The first order of business was to introduce visitors, who were Art Paul WB6EOF, Wendel Price, Bob McPhearson and son Skip McPhearson, Harry and Sylvia Brown. A round of applause gave each a warm welcome. Upgrades: Bob KA6SST upgraded to Tech. M.M.S.P.: that minutes be approved as printed in the CARRIER.

Audit Committee: Parky, K6IMV, and Val, KD6KV, report a balance on hand as of Dec. 31, 1981 \$2,068.85.

Ron, K6YC, assembling material for Club of the year.

Secretary: Nothing to report

Treasurer: Nancy, KA6IZI, reports \$1,209.81 in checking and \$1,204.81 in savings. Nancy also took orders for Jack-ets in the absense of ailing Dick Squires. Emergency Coordinator: Dave, WA6OFI, report everything smooth and urged a large turn out for Radio Amateur Emergency Meeting Sunday Feb. 21.

CARRIER: All agreed, Doug WA6GON doing a great job on CARRIER.

Door Prize Chairman: Val KD6KV, said that Dick Squires is not present so everyone has a better chance to win. HI, HI.

Membership Chairman: Frank N6GQ, reports that we have 195 members to date. He also urged everyone when they send in their dues to fill out membership card.

Public Service Chairman: Joe WA6DQN, reports all going well with first event to be April 25 for March of Dimes.

Social Chairman: Rick NA6Q reports 2 or 3 tentative places being considered for Christmas Party 1982.

Special Function: Frank, WA6GYR reports that he and Ron WB6JGV are busy installing antennas and Frank has been scouting around for usable equipment.

New Business: Wendell Price asked for help in taking down an antenna and tower from Acalanes School and set back up at Del Valle. Guy, N6DTU, volunteered to coordinate the effort.

Dick, KT6X gave a brief report on ARRL convention that he and Ron K6XC, attended. 15 motions were introduced and passed. Magnetic signs are still available. Contact Dee N6EJU.

Meeting broke for coffee at 8:48. Parky, K6IMV, introduced our speakers for the evening, Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ, and Al Gaetano W6VZT, who gave a very informative talk on how to select a good modern rcvr. Meeting adjourned at 10:23.

Respectfully Submitted | Dee, N6EJU, Secretary

## TECHNICAL CORNER

Jim Lisson WA2CEP

### WHAT'S YOUR FREQUENCY

We have all seen the newer receivers with the digital frequency readouts. Ever think of adding one to your older receiver? Let's look at some of the ways that this could be accomplished.

We will look at a double conversion receiver such as the Heathkit SB301. The first mixer in this receiver uses high side injection, crystal controlled, 8.895 MHz higher than the low end of the band in use. This is called the HFO. The second mixer injection is from a LMO that tunes from 5.0 to 5.5 MHz. The BFO is crystal controlled at 3396.4 KHZ (USB) or 3393.6 KHZ (LSB). The frequency of the LMO is shifted some 2.8 KHZ when changing from USB to LSB such that the received frequency remains constant.

One way to set up a readout is to take the output from each oscillator and combine them using mixers such that the output frequency is the same as the frequency we are tuned to. Count this signal with your frequency counter and it will indicate the frequency you are tuned to. The major problem with this method is that we are generating a signal on the same frequency that the receiver is tuned to and a lot of filtering and shielding is required to make this scheme work.

A second way, that works much better, is to use an up/down counter. This time we start with a count of zero and count up for say, one second, using the signal from the HFO. Then, without resetting, count down, using the BFO signal, for one second. Once more we will count down, without resetting, this time using the LMO signal, for one second. The display will now indicate the frequency we are tuned to. This number is now "latched" and the display will remain constant as the count cycle repeats, starting with a reset to zero. The display will up-date every three seconds and this scheme can display the frequency in HZ. If a display down to the 100 HZ digit is sufficient then the "count gate" can be made 10MS and the readout will up-date every 30MS.

A third scheme and one that is very easy to implement with most any receiver is to just count the VFO (LMO) frequency. With the HFO and the BFO crystal controlled the frequency of the LMO bears a direct relationship with the frequency we are tuned to. The MHZ digits in the readout are "hard wired" from the Bandswitch and the frequency of the LMO is counted. The MHZ digits of this counter are ignored

and the remaining digits along with the MHZ from the Bandswitch go into the display. Depending on what the frequency range of the LMO is the count may not want to start at zero but rather be pre-set to some number such that the resultant

count is correct. Also with a receiver such as the SB301 where the LMO tunes backwards (5.0 MHz at the high end of the band and 5.5 MHz at the low frequency end) we will pre-set the counter at some high number and count down. This way the indicated frequency will track with the tuning dial.

With any of these schemes there is not as much of a requirement for the "linear" part of LMO but it must still have low drift. Remember that this is only the frequency you are tuned to. Any relationship this bears to the other stations frequency depends on how good your ear is and how steady your hand is.

73 Jim WA2CEP

### ponder this.....

To find money growing on trees, it first takes alot of grafting.

CARRIER Feb. 1975

### 'CARRIER Quotes'

This month's CARRIER Quote is taken from the December 1967 CARRIER

"The Ham Monitor Funnybone"

Charley, W0CCT is the funnyman for a publication called "The Ham Monitor", from Kansas. (Charley is from Iowa). From his column comes the following. (swiped): "One of the worst things that ever happened to a nice OM was the time he had heard that Eisenhower had made General. He's tried ever since to contact him on the Ham bands!"

Charley said on the air one day that he had to be a thinker to write his material and the K4 he was talking to came back and said he was sorry about his lisp."

On his first contact on 20-meters, some OM came back to Charley and told him his brain was badly in need of a linear. He was told by one OM that if more ops on 20-meters would say what they think there wouldn't be so much QRM on the band!"

"He calls himself Mason, and some op said he was Dixon, and here's where we draw the line!"



## Repeater News

Since the last CARRIER the Id'er has been repaired. It's not bad practice though to use the repeaters ID or Call. It's good practice. When your announcing your presence on the repeater a good idea is to say W6CX this is W6XXX monitoring etc. Let the repeater squelch sound and wait a few seconds between transmissions to let others into the repeater. A few have been a bit fast on the button. For you who commute, there is a great group on in the morning.

The repeater meeting was held on February 9, 1982. The following new members were accepted into the group. Nancy Hodgson KA6IZI, Bob Hodgson KA6ODX, Carolyn Dahl KA6LSK, Bob Dahl KA6LSL, and Don Bertrand N6EEQ. Welcome aboard. The Steering Committee has recommended that the phone patch be put back on 2 meters. It is recommended that it be the type that has a control monitor at all times to bring it up. At times when there is no control operator, automatic codes be available to bring up programmed emergency phone numbers of the P.D.'s, CHP, SO, Ambulances, etc. All agreed to this. When finances allow plans will be drawn.

A motion was made to raise the re-instatement fee for past members be raised from \$5.00 to \$10.00. The motion was tabled until the next meeting. All members are requested to give their feelings to the Repeater Chairman. An idea was presented that this fee be made when an old member has been absent for three quarters. A motion was made to raise the initiation fee starting the second quarter from \$5.00 to \$10.00. This motion was passed. A motion was made and passed that the special assessment of \$5 currently in effect for the first quarter be paid by all new and re-instated members during the 1982 calendar year. A motion was made to reduce the repeater dues to \$5.00 a quarter for the second quarter. This motion was passed.

Doug W6KLM, resigned as Member at large to donate more time to the Carrier. Chuck Welch WA6MWU was appointed to his term. We now have two new antennas for the 220 repeater. They are Hustler G7's. A crew consisting of Dick KT6X and his son, Frank WA6GYR, Al N6EBO, Guy N6DTU and Paul WB6DHH went up on Sunday 2/6/82 and put one up on the receive end. It was so cold that they could not do the transmit antenna. They will wait for better (warmer) weather to do the other. The wind chill factor up on that tower is something else. Thanks guys for all your suffering. The 220 machine already works better with the one new antenna. The new 2 meter repeater is about ready. It

just lacks primary control circuits. Thanks Paul. We will have the best machine in the Bay Area when it goes up. The Club MDARC/RRRG was called out by the Concord Police Department over the Feb. 6/7 weekend to assist in the search for the kidnapped 2 yr.

old girl. They all worked simplex and assisted the police. The Club responded in a terrific manner. We had 8 operators in the field and 17 operators in reserve. This is what amateur radio is all about. The operators also learned what everybody knew in the old days. Simplex coverage in the county is great.

All you members that have not paid your dues get them in. The sooner we receive your dues the faster the new antenna will be purchased for 2 meters and the new repeater will go up on the hill and the sooner the proposed phone patch will be implemented. It was a good repeater meeting. More members should show up even MDARC members as it's your repeater even if you do not pay dues.

Jay D. Caldis KT6Y Trustee

## DARC

A new Amateur Radio Club has been formed in Contra Costa County! Amateurs in the Delta region (East Contra Costa County) have formed the Delta Amateur Radio Club. The membership stands at about fifty interested Delta area Amateurs. The Club's weekly NET meets Thursdays at 7PM on 146.54 MHZ. Monthly Club meetings are held on the third Thursday of every month at Homestead Savings and Loan in Antioch at 7 PM Considering the price of gas these days and the number of Hams that live in East County the formation of this Club was a VERY good idea. Ron Miller WB6JGV described the group as a "bunch of good ole boys who like to get together and rag chew" and "a pretty good group of people." I think thats understating however. Some of our best RACES/YARES volunteers live in East County. The DARC will provide a good way for all Hams in the area to stay on top of emergency activities. Congratulations DARC!

## Club Jackets

Available through Dick Squires, KA6JGP. See February CARRIER for details.

## THE SOUTHERN CHAPTER..... news from down south

This month's column features Art Fox, W6HQL, and his wife Marge, KA6QEP. Many of you live in the shadow of Mt. Diablo, this writer lives in the shadow of W6HQL, since his QTH is just down the street and his tower and tribander dwarf mine.

While a new M.D.A.R.C. member, Art is not new to Amateur Radio, having been licensed for 47 years. He served as a member of the Illinois State Police from 1941-1947. During his years with the State Police he became known for several things. One, his ability to remember numbers and spot stolen cars, and two, the fact that he was chosen on multiple occasions to transport the original Gettysburg Address Document prepared by Abraham Lincoln from Springfield to Chicago.

In 1947 Art moved to Coronado, CA where the Fox family has lived ever since. He served as an officer with the Coronado Police Department from 1948-1956. In that year he left full time law enforcement to expand the television sales and service business which he originally established on a part time basis in 1947. Art finally retired from his many business related endeavors in 1976.



Art was the founder years ago of the Coronado Amateur Radio Society, an organization which exists to this day. He has, over the years, been very active in the public service aspects of our hobby. He has handled thousands upon thousands of phone patches between stateside and Antarctica as well as the Pacific. His phone patches to military personnel at the South Pole resulted in him receiving a stuffed penguin which now greets guests at a San Diego Motel. Active on 2 meters and the low bands with a combination of Collins, Kenwood, and Icom gear Art is active as a life

member of the Navy League and serves as the Block Captain of the Police Department's neighborhood watch program.

XYL Marge, is presently studying towards an upgrade of her Amateur License. She is an accomplished pianist and organist and a noted organ teacher in the San Diego area. She has performed on radio on many occasions in the Midwest and here in Coronado has played for numerous Church services, on several nearby Navy facilities and large ships in Port. She is a member of the National Theater Organists Club and the Professional Organists Club of San Diego. She is listed on the National Register of teachers for the Hammond Organ Club.

Art and Marge are a delightful couple and a welcome addition to the M.D.A.R.C. Until next month 73 Jerry WA6CUP

## Murphy's Laws



*Murphy's General Law as  
Applied to Amateur Radio*

Dimensions will always be expressed in the least usable term. Velocity, for example, will be expressed in furlongs per fortnight.

In any given computation, the figure that is most obviously correct will be the source of error.

The probability of a dimension or value being omitted from a drawing is directly proportional to its importance.

In specifications, Murphy's Law supersedes Ohm's.

If a project requires  $n$  components, there will be  $n-1$  components available.

The most delicate component will be dropped.

The construction and operating manual will be discarded with the packing material. The garbage trucks will have picked up five minutes before the mad dash to the rubbish can.

A component selected at random from a group having 99% reliability will be a member of the 1% group.

The availability of a component is inversely proportional to the need for that component.

If a particular resistance is needed, that value will not be available. Further, it cannot be developed with any available series or parallel combination.

After an instrument has been fully assembled, extra components will be found on the bench.

Any wire cut to length will be too short.



## short currents

by C. W. Morse

Don, W6EEN, got his picture in the paper (Contra Costa Times) recently...Ron and Joanne Miller took a day trip to Pt Reyes in February. Ron stopped by a church in Inverness that was used as a shelter during the "Storm of '82" and stumbled into a Ham critique of ARES efforts there. (Joanne and Andy were tapping their toes outside). ...Our own Joe Campbell, KD6DY, is running for Walnut Creek City Council...Dick, WA6OJT is still running a Drake TR- mobile. (Die hard!)...Dwayne, W6LKE and Don, N6EEQ, attended a Volunteer Luncheon at Red Cross Diablo Chapter on Feb. 12...Doug, W6KLM, the CARRIER printer is still cranky as ever. Florence, his XYL keeps him in line and loves typing the CARRIER...Don, WB6TEE(T-HEE-HEE), is busy putting together a 1982 Club Calendar for the Photo Membership Directory...W6CX/RPT (147.06) is buzzing with morning commute traffic. Check in!...Lots of good equipment and parts for sale at the March Auction. Ya all be there!...President Dick is up to his elbows in committee chairpersons. Anything like alligators Dick?...Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN/WA6GSN, has been appointed as HR Report's (now the Westlink Report) official European correspondent. Son Michael sports quite a few new teeth and wife Waltraud still has a craving for fortune cookies...WA2CEP, is drowning in aluminum. Who gets the cans now that the Awards chairman stepped down to become CARRIER Editor?...There's a new code practice repeater on 22/82. What next?...Art's daughter was seen running things at the Base Station while Art attended to a family emergency in the "old country"...Squires is awfully hard to pin down these days. Something about a new YL on the block...Shutterbug, George, WB6OHF, plans on lots of good pictures for the CARRIER this year...John WB6UMT, won a CATVI battle with a cable company... Question for AI6V. Carl, did they name your street after the looks of your property? Tower Hill Rd?...Sure would like to see a picture of Arv and Ruby in the CARRIER. How's life in Tennessee?...Frank, WA6GYR, was appointed a Reserve Police Officer in the City of Pleasant Hill. Now we're truly safe when the Pleasant Hill Amateur Radio Transmitting Society meets for a T-hunt. Speaking of T-hunts, warm weather is coming. Sure would be nice to renew an old sport...Joe, WA6PVA, is limbering up after his move to the Bay Area...Bill, KR6G, is excited about DARC as every East County Ham should be...More next month...73,

C.W.

## Ham Radio Outlet

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## MDARC Member Spotlight



This month the member spotlight illuminates our own personable Dick Squires, KA6JGP. Sitting down with Dick to do a simple interview for this column proved an impossible task.

He's not the least uncooperative, but his accomplishments and exploits are so voluminous it's improbable that I'll do him justice.

I went to visit Dick's station located in a modest trailer park in Concord. The last several years have seen Dick preparing for retirement in his mobile QTH. That goal is about a year away now, and Dick is ready. He's done so much with his life its now time, obviously, to start relaxing.

Obvious to Dick, but not to you? Well here is a picture of Dick Squires, man of many talents: Dick is a Novice Class Amateur, oil company machinist, workaholic, nice guy, part-time comedian and aspiring banjo player. He holds brokers licenses for Real Estate, Insurance sales and even yacht sales! (He's excelled in all three fields.) I musn't forget the seven years he was the owner of a Packard dealership in Whittier, California 1946-1942. Those of you who think Packard is an old radio boat anchor--its not. Packard, according to Dick, was the number one luxury car in America prior to 1941 until the Cadillac came along. His dealership was so prestigious Dick held the Rolls Royce franchise as well. His success as a mechanic enabled him to be the only Packard dealer in the USA to keep his business in the black every month he owned it. His service department was top notch. That kept happy customers coming back.

Dick's dad made sure every one of his kids had a trade by the time they left school. Dick explained his dad wanted each of his kids to have "an ace in the hole" something each one of the kids could do with their hands. Dick's love for mechanical things, gadgets and gismos as a child gave him that beloved ace. His dad was right. Dick succeeded.

So how does a Packard dealer become a Ham operator? Well according to Dick... Once upon a time (a day about four years ago), Bob Bruder KA6Q, convinced Dick Amateur Radio was a terrific hobby and inexpensive. He convinced Dick he could tinker around a Ham station like he'd never tinkered before. Dick had another ace up his sleeve which made entry into the hobby a little more enticing. He had learned the Morse code while a Bosuns Mate First Class in Uncle Sam's Navy. Bob filled Dick with enthusiasm.

Ham radio for Dick is a way to seek happiness in his home and with friends. His philosophy runs like this, "Be happy. I think peace of mind keeps you happy. Ham radio gives me peace of mind. I get involved with things I feel good about doing...thats why I think I'll die at the age of 107..."

Dick did some radio operating in WW2 aboard his landing vessel. He was the skipper of an eight man crew that specialized in air/sea rescue in the Pacific. He operated Hallicrafters equipment during the war and considered it reliable well made gear. His first transmitter purchase as a ham was a Hallicrafters. This purchased from the Base Station where Dick's se-



cond friend Elmer, Art VE2AQV, hangs his shingle. Dick has since been back to the Base Station to support his growing addiction. (See photo.)

Actually, Dick never got the old Hall-icersafters on the air. It was probably his affection for the name that prompted him to buy the transmitter, "I thought it would be nice to have. It weighed about three tons, the size of a box car. Never did use it, but fired it up just to see the light come on and the tubes heat up."

His first receiver was one provided by Elmer Bob Bruder. It was this receiver that set Dick upon his present course. He loves to listen, particularly to CW his first love. Dick developed a unique Morse learning technique while serving in WW2. He taught around five thousand of America's fighting men the code. He continues to do this, in MDARC's Ham classes.

Dick has been trying to upgrade from Novice to General but finds theory a stumbling block. He is studying like crazy, when he has a free moment. He has put a complete YASEU station together as an incentive to bite the bullet and hit the books. He's built up quite a library of technically related material he refers to constantly.

In the meantime, Dick is more than happy to sit at his operating position and listen to QSO's. Listening, believe it or not is Dick's chief enjoyment of the Ham radio hobby. He fully enjoys putting his station together, taking it apart and putting it together again as well. He listens and tinkers and enjoys the company of fellow Hams at club meetings and functions.

Dick has given much of his time and efforts to Club and RACES/ARES pursuits. He has served on the Awards Committee for two years and now is it's esteemed chairman. He kept CARRIER standard high as its Editor for 1981. He has put a mobile communications truck together for use by ARES/RACES the Red Cross and others. Dick donated time and materials to help establish W6LGW. MDARC, I'm sure, is proud to have Dick as a member and a cherished friend.

Time and space just don't permit me to keep writing about Dick. I think I could write a book about his experiences. There is probably a chapter around each of the thirty-three boats he has owned. I can encourage you though, to really get to know Dick. He's quite a Ham and a bang up Elmer himself. Thanks Dick, for being a member of our Club.

Put yourself and your station in the MDARC Member Spotlight. Submit a Black & white photo of your station (with you in it of course!) along with a brief personal history. We'll all get to know you better in the CARRIER.

## Public Service

Sunday March 28. Pinole Marathon. Dave Tyler, N6DRT of the East Bay Radio Club is handling details, and may call on us for operators if needed.

Sunday, April 4. Run for Daylight (American Cancer Society) in Alamo - Stone Valley Road - Round Hill Country Club area. Six operators with 2 meter mobile or hand held rigs needed. Details and route maps will be ready at March meeting.

April 17. Mount Diablo Trail Ride. Dave Greenhill is making arrangements.

April 17 to 25. National Health Fair. Single operators will be needed at three sites: West Coast Federal Savings Bank, Pleasant Hill, Wednesday and Thursday, April 21 and 22, 1000 to 1600 local time; County East Mall, Antioch, Saturday, April 17; Montego Heights Lodge, Walnut Creek (date not yet set).

April 25. Walk America (March of Dimes). Details not yet available, but numerous operators may be needed at several Contra Costa County sites.

Joe Gregory WA6DQN

## RACES/ARES

The Contra Costa County amateur radio operators who are active with emergency and disaster communications are trying to locate equipment suitable to equip a vehicle as a mobile communications unit. This vehicle could be used by various supporting agencies as needed. A companion generator is also needed. You can help by passing this information along.

WA6GYR

The ARES/RACES activity is increasing steadily. Many projects are underway. If you have an interest and can help in any way, let them know.

WA6GYR

## The Carrier Quoted

"The Club has a small black book which says that on Jan. 2, 1947 there was a meeting in the home of Bud Stedinger W6CX to form the Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club. There was another meeting at the same QTH Jan. 9, 1947 at which time and place there was a formation and adoption of bylaws. Bud Stedinger, W6CX was the first President. O.W. Peterson, W6LGW was the first Vice President, Lyle Gardenhire, W6RUZ was the first Secretary Treasurer. That was 30 years ago." Now of course we are celebrating our 35th anniversary. LONG LIVE MDARC!!! From March '77 CARRIER

January 1982 77

## CQ HBO

Our frequencies and operating privileges are in jeopardy. While we were concerned about possible losses at WARC in 1979, cable TV operators were quietly making plans to use our bands from 40 meters through 220 MHz. Admittedly, some of our bands are shared, as is the 420-450 MHz band; however, nowhere is broadcasting or cable TV mentioned as a shared user of any of our frequencies.

We did very well at WARC, keeping almost everything we had and even gaining valuable spectrum. Now we face a new problem. You can hear strong commercial television signals right in the middle of our 2-meter band here in beautiful downtown Lompoc (California), as well as in Arroyo Grande, Pismo Beach and San Luis Obispo. As noted in recent issues of various Amateur Radio publications, this problem is not limited to California; it is nationwide, affecting hams as well as aviation and other public service agencies.

## Background

The cable TV operators receive services such as Home Box Office, Showtime, Cable News Network, and so forth, directly from satellites. It is impractical to distribute these signals as received, so the signals are scrambled and retransmitted on lower frequencies (scrambling makes it difficult for nonsubscribers to use the signal). The new vhf signal is then transmitted down the cable along with all the other TV channels.

Since most cable TV systems have already filled all 12 vhf channels with the standard TV stations, some frequencies outside the normal TV broadcasting frequency range must be used for the expanded service. Typically, users subscribe to either the standard service or to the extended service at an extra cost. If you opt for the extended service, a special converter is installed in your home to receive and decode the signal for reception by your television.

## The Problem

Expanded spectrum is required to provide the expanded service. While it is possible to use the uhf frequencies already allocated for the broadcast service, it's more technically feasible and cost effective to use lower frequencies. The frequencies of 88 through 174 MHz, the "mid-band," are the most common choice. The cable systems are able to do this on the premise of being a "closed circuit" system. This is rapidly becoming recognized as a fallacy.

In recent actions by the FCC, severe in-

terference problems to aviation frequencies have brought rule changes placing strict limitations on the cable industry. The FCC has fined several companies as much as \$20,000 for violation of these new rules (see September 1981 *QST*, page 10, and FCC report no. 2504, dated April 24, 1981). The new rules require prior FCC notification and approval before any signal is placed on an aviation frequency. Operation will not be approved if there is any aviation user within 60 nautical miles of any part of the cable system.

In Lompoc, some hams can no longer monitor WB6QEV/RPT on 145.11 because of sidebands from channel E. Furthermore, it is impossible to communicate at all on several 2-meter channels. While the offending signals are stronger in some parts of town than in others, they are generally strong enough throughout the area to disrupt communications. Similar problems exist wherever cable TV exists.

While most ham activity in the 2-meter band is channelized fm, a number of hams are active in weak-signal operation. In contrast to fm operation, their activities are characterized by large antennas, high power and high-performance receivers. They typically work stations over 300-mile distances and operate moonbounce, meteor scatter and other exotic modes. A strong signal to them is 3 dB above their receivers' 1-dB noise floor. To these hams, leakage levels, such as those occurring in cable TV systems, are many orders of magnitude greater than the strongest signals they routinely use for communications.

## Two-Way Street

Another problem exists. Cables that leak out also leak in. Low-powered operation (even hand-helds) can destroy channel-E reception for several city blocks, which, in a densely populated area, could affect hundreds of viewers. Amateurs, operating within their rights, may receive severe retribution from neighbors. If millions of cable TV viewers receive interference from a few hundred amateurs, who's going to put pressure on whom? We might face quiet hours or the loss of a band (or bands).

I am a degreed rf engineer responsible for a very small "closed circuit" rf system that gets telemetry from spacecraft under test a few hundred feet away. Since the system operates on the same frequency as "on orbit" satellites, leakage levels must be low enough so as not to interfere with Vandenberg Tracking Station, 10 miles away. While the system uses the highest quality cable and connectors, it is a constant problem keeping the system certified for closed-circuit operation. If it is so difficult to keep a small system with 15 or so connectors sound, how can it possibly be done with RG-59

and tin-plated, crimp-on connectors that are exposed to all of the elements?

In reality, the cable TV operators have no control over what is done with their signal once it reaches the customer. Unauthorized and illegal connections are often added. Agreements are often made in which the cable TV operator provides the drop with an apartment house owner, who is responsible for distribution, providing his own wiring and amplifiers. In both cases, it is common to find twin-lead, zip cord and single conductor hook-ups. It is also common for apartment dwellers to simply pull up the rabbit ears on their TV sets and get snow-free reception rather than bother with direct hook-ups.

## Current Status

The operation of cable TV systems is regulated by various sections of FCC rules. §76.613b states that: "The operator of a cable television system that causes interference shall promptly take appropriate measures to eliminate the harmful interference."

That's very clear, and it's clear to the FCC. WB6GVO of Arroyo Grande complained to the FCC about interference in the 2-meter band. Only a week later, the FCC sent notices to the operators of the cable TV systems in Santa Maria, Lompoc and San Luis Obispo requesting that the offending operator contact WB6GVO and attempt to resolve the problem and to respond in writing to the FCC, within 15 days, describing the steps taken to suppress the interference.

## How You Can Help

WARC has come and gone, and our frequencies are safe for another few years. However, the cable TV problem may well be the end of Amateur Radio. While the immediate problem is within the vhf bands, it is conceivable that it may affect other bands, including 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 220. The time to act is now, and we have to act fast before everyone is listening to channel E. The ARRL, Senator Barry Goldwater and many other concerned people are working on the problem, but they need lots of support. Here is what you can do: Complain to the FCC (Federal Communications Commission, Cable TV Bureau, 1919 M St. N.W., Washington, DC 20554, Attn: Cynthia Jeffries). Send copies of your complaints to the ARRL, Senator Goldwater and myself (I am compiling a central file of all complaints and comments).

Since the beginning of Amateur Radio, we have always operated on a noninterference basis. If the present trend continues, noninterference may well mean that we can only talk to each other on the telephone. — Bob Couger, W6KPS, 1095 McCoy, No. 99, Santa Maria, CA 93455

QST



# The Editor's Space

## CATVI



A monstrous TVI menace is upon us. A menace so threatening that if we do not meet it head on now, Amateurs everywhere may face numbers of TVI complaints heretofore unimaginable. The ARRL has dubbed it, "A new strain of RFI virus."

CATV, Community Antenna Television, has selected Amateur Radio frequencies in the 144, 220, and 430 MHz spectrum for their multi-channel expanded CATV service.

Amateurs in many California communities, and communities nationwide have discovered that CATV's so called "closed systems," using Amateur frequencies are far from closed: moreover, some leak severely enough to cause harmful interference to the Amateur Service. (See QST, Jan & Feb. 1982, also ARRL Handbook 1982 Edition.) Similar leakage conditions now exist in the cities of Concord, Pittsburg, and Antioch.

Not only do these CATV "closed systems" fail to adequately contain the RF at the Amateur frequencies, but the systems that leak also have the potential to disturb communications of the Land Mobile and Aeronautical Radio Services. The FCC has considered CATVI to the Aeronautical Radio Service so severe that strict FCC rules apply to any CATV operator within sixty miles of an airport proposing to use ARS frequencies. (See QST, Sept. 1981 page 10)

The interference by CATV is small in comparison to the ominous potential for TVI to the new multi-channel cable subscriber's converters. Closed systems that leak can also be leaked into. My own personal experience while a CATV multi-channel Showtime subscriber proved this to my satisfaction.

Keeping in mind the history of RFI and TVI, Amateurs are fully aware that the layman (entertainment appliance user) places all blame for RFI/TVI on the Amateur not his costly entertainment devices. I don't think there is a Ham alive who has not suffered scorn and humiliation at the hands of his neighbors for RFI/TVI. The operator who now restricts his residential Amateur operations to the VHF (and above) frequencies to avoid TVI/RFI complaints may now be faced by those same angry neighbors, again! This will be particularly true for apartment or condominium dwellers. (CATV operators usually do not assume responsibility for so-called "commercial drops" to business or large complexes. Cable repairs are the responsibility of the building owner. This was explained to me by a CATV

technician at Concord TV Cable when I dropped in last year to alert him of a high level of interference in the vicinity of a convalescent hospital near my home.)

The CATVI at my QTH in Concord is strong enough to make operation on the 145.25 MHz repeater, WR6AXG impossible. Noticeable interference is present from 145.21 to 145.27 MHz. The signal often appears strongest at 145.265 or 145.26 MHz. I am in the process of writing a letter of complaint to Concord TV Cable regarding the problem.

III If you live in an area where a CATV company uses an Amateur Radio Service frequency and a high CATV signal level is present, write the cable company. Also send a copy of your letter to the FCC Field Office in San Francisco. Drop a dollar or two for copies of your communications and send them to the persons listed at the end of this editorial. Talk up the problem on the air and encourage your Ham friends to become involved too.

MDARC Amateurs will not be the first to voice complaints against CATVI. Clubs around the nation including Fresno, San Luis Obispo, Arroyo Grande, and John WB6UMT in Pittsburg have already taken a stand. John WB6UMT, advised me the FCC took his complaint very seriously, ordering VIACOM in Pittsburg to find and eliminate the leaks interfering with John's station!

In my opinion, CATV and the Amateur Radio Service are inherently incompatible co-users of Amateur frequencies. It's plain, common sense. What do you think? (Note: CATV companies are also entertaining the future use of Amateur low band frequencies for other uses! An the CATV industry is now petitioning the FCC to relax cable system leakage regulations!)

Channels available to CATV in the Amateur Radio Service frequencies are:

Channel E: 145.25 MHz, Channel K: 223.25, Channel UU: 421.25 MHz, Channel WW: 433.25, Channel VV: 427.25, Channel XX: 439.25, Channel YY: 445.25 and 7-28 MHz!

Send copies of your correspondence to:

FCC	FCC
Engineer In Charge	Cable TV Bureau
323A Customhouse	ATTN: Cynthia Jeffries
555 Battery St.	1919 M St. N.W.
San Francisco, CA	Washington, D.C.
94101	20554

ARRL	Hon. Senator B. Goldwater
ATTN: Richard Palm	U.S. Senate
225 Main St	Washington, D.C. 20510
Newington, CT. 06111	

and the Board of Directors, MDARC

Ed.

## Dits & Bits / W5YI Report

The FCC has already gone on record as favoring the move to let the amateur community do its own exam writing and testing and is the first to recognize that the present system simply isn't working. First, it's too expensive for the government to give the tests - particularly in view of the agency's ever shrinking budget. Secondly, it doesn't take long before those that know where to obtain the examination information right being what they are, the FCC appears powerless to protect the security and integrity of its exams. In effect, the whole amateur radio examination program has degenerated into a farce and the feeling is that the amateur community could do a much better job of screening its membership than the government. The Commission has always recognized that amateurs are better at enforcing rules and motivating its peers than they are. It appears a "lead-pipe cinch" that in due time - and just how long this amounts to is anybody's guess - that the FCC will be out of the ham testing business and that the amateur community will be deciding who is qualified to utilize its frequency allocations.

### LOMPOC CABLE TV OFF HAM BAND, BUT STILL CAUSING INTERFERENCE!

You will remember that we wrote about Teleprompter of Lompoc, CA, finally moving off of Cable Channel E(18) which is located in the 2-meter ham band to Cable Channel 28. They relocated since they were unable to resolve their interference to amateur operations. Teleprompter thought that their troubles were over once they moved off of 2 meters - but apparently this is not the case.

The Long Beach(CA) FCC field office sent 2 engineers to Lompoc to check on radio frequency leakage from the Teleprompter system. It seems that while Teleprompter solved their interference problems to amateur radio by moving out of the ham band - they are still causing interference. This time it is to the aeronautical transmission bands. A "non-compliance letter" is being sent to Teleprompter demanding correction of the RFI problems.

The Lompoc Cable System is one of the oldest cable systems in the country having been in existence since 1970. Apparently when the taps (into the main cable line) and drops (where lines go into the homes) became corroded, signal leakage occurred requiring cable signal amplification. The boosted cable signal caused

## SMORGA BOB'S BOTCH UP:

The letter we received from Smorga Bob's Gentlemen:

Your letter of January 29, 1982 via the Oakland office of Better Business Bureau has reached my desk.

A personal investigation by me substantiates your facts as presented.

Nothing I can say at this point is adequate certainly not "I'm sorry."

You should be aware that Concord SmorgaBob is a partnership composed of Mr. Brendan Barrows and Fairfield SmorgaBob, Inc. As such, it is Mr. Barrows' responsibility for the day-to-day activities of the restaurant. I do not, however, offer this as an excuse inasmuch as there is no excuse.

The only thing I can do at this time is acknowledge your valid complaint and offer a sincere apology.

If you can find it possible to accept our apology, we would be grateful.

Sincerely yours,  
SMORGABOB FAMILY RESTAURANTS, INC.  
Walter L. Geer, C.P.A.

Controller

cc: Better Business Bureau

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## Dits & Bits

even more leakage in the process. As more and more US cable systems get older - and corroded - it is apparent that increased signal leakage and RFI problems will accompany.

### TWO WAY INTERACTIVE CABLE TV - ANOTHER POTENTIAL RFI AND LEGAL PROBLEM

How long will it be before amateur radio operators interfere with the so-called "T" cable channels? These are two-way transmissions via cable TV. It works by having a "black box" converter or a home computer hooked into the cable network. Can you imagine what might happen when a consumer is entering a banking transaction and the next door ham fires up his kilowatt rig? Instant millionaires and paupers! The ramifications of this are mind-boggling! Banking by cable is already available on a trial basis in San Diego and Cox Cable will probably open up interactive cable banking to all subscribers late this year! The much-touted 2-way Qube system (Columbus, Ohio) is also slated for widespread expansion.

On January 12th, the ARRL's General Counsel, Chris Imlay filed a petition with the FCC calling for "Nonuse by cable companies of amateur frequencies." Pointed out in the League's petition is the fact that even though cable TV is defined as a "non-broadcast facility", energy is allowed to escape and amateur signals can be introduced into the cable system. The well-done petition called for the Commission to "amend its rules to prohibit operation of cable television systems on frequencies assigned to the Amateur Radio Service" and said that "specific authority for the requested action" is contained in Section 302 of the Communications Act. The ARRL also said that the Commission does not have the manpower to deal with the problem in any other manner.

Thanks to Dits & Bits.

### AMATEUR LICENSE TESTING SAN FRANCISCO FCC FIELD OFFICE(as of 1/20)

Amateur exams on Wednesdays!  
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General code test 10:30 A.M.  
Technician 12:30 P.M.  
All written Exams 1:00 P.M.

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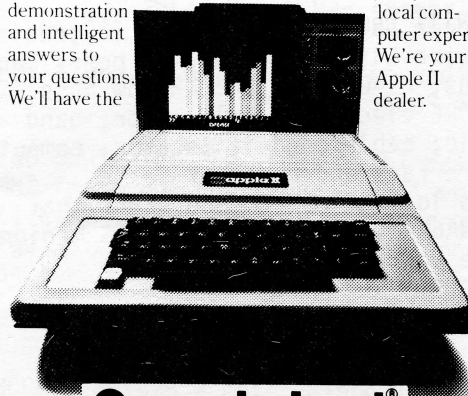
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See Russ-KA6BPN

## AUCTION

The following items were donated to the Club for sale at the March auction. All funds go to the Club Treasury. Items are from the Estate of Silent Key, KA6LCA Lee Herenkoehl.

EICO, 0-Scope clean works perfectly; 40 drawer cabinet filled with new parts; 12 drawer cabinet filled with new parts, three cabinets available; box of tubes; box of PC boards; 12 section box of terminal lugs; 12 drawer cabinet with switches; 10 drawer cabinet with misc parts; box of model railroad controllers and misc parts; box of insulators and misc parts; box full of caps and resistors and coils; box of variable caps; box of meters and parts; box of terminal strips, car radios and parts; box of misc parts, circuit boards, and tape players; box of parts and speakers; 3" fan; 5" fan; 10" fan; squirrel cage fan; foot long fan; marine radio; another box of meters and parts; box of power cords and switches; box of meter movements; individual meter movements, assorted; computer power supply assembly (2); computer parts (classics) ATLAS mobile mount for 210 etc; copper circuit board stock; roller inductor; VARIAC power stat; dynamo for bicycle (NEW); (2) chassis box kits; misc collectors tubes; (2) box of IC's still in bubble packs; 220 MHZ duckie; tube socket; large bag of AA ni-cads, (2); resistance wire kit; CW filter; PA horn; back up horns; HY-GAIN balun; KW low pass; COMMODORE electronic calculator; hand held mic; cable/conduit locator; computer; more fans and boxes of parts

Also lost of other good stuff that Chuck WA6MWU, picked up from OES Region 2. Hope you can all come.

## 'Carrier Quotes'

Feb. 1975

Found: A lid and 2 spoons at the Christmas Party.

(Ed. note: Did anyone ever claim them?)

Going to work isn't so bad. It's the long wait before going home that hurts.

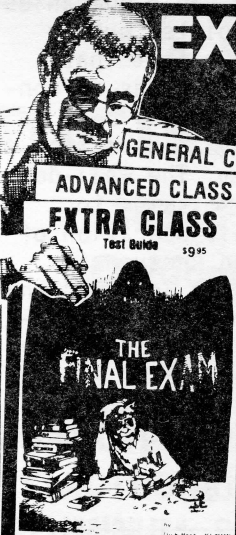
Dec. '77 CARRIER

Student in Radio Class: Why is it that when I ask you a question, you always come back to me with another question?

Instructor: Why do you say that?

## AUCTION RULES

1. MDARC gets 10% of selling price, with a maximum of \$5.00. However, "buy backs" have a maximum fee of \$1.00 and the club gets a straight 10% of a deceased persons equipment. If you want the club to get a full 100%, say so on the tag on the item.
2. Everyone, whether a buyer or seller, gets a number on a card. Hold up your numbered card when you bid.
3. All sellers are entitled to have 3 items sold during prime time (example, if your rig is 34, number your prime time items 34A, 34B, 34C.)
4. Seller's tags (attached to each item) will have spaces for "silent bids" prior to the time the item is auctioned. A minimum bid written on the item's tag by the seller will be regarded as an open bid and subject to "buy back" rules.
5. Bids should not be less than .50¢ increments.
6. Pay the Club, don't pay the seller. He gets his money later, minus the Club's commission.



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## Carrier Classifieds

### FOR SALE

I'll donate 5% to MDARC on any item sold due to publication in the CARRIER.

BY: Jerry Boyd WA6CUP  
(714) 437-8580 evenings

KENWOOD TS-120S h.f. mobile transceiver, with VFO-120S, mobile microphone, mobile mounting bracket \$600 complete

DENTRON MLA 2500 linear amplifier, 10 thru 160 meters \$450.00

DIAWA SWR/Watt meter 140-460 Mhz, 200 watt (like new) \$75.00

TRIONYX Frequency Counter, 1.8 Mhz to 600 Mhz dc and ac power with adaptor (like new) \$50.00

DRAKE Antenna Tuner MN20000 SWR/power meter 2 kw P.E.P. \$160.00

DRAKE 2 kw dry dummy load (never used) \$30.00

REGENCY "Flite Scan" aircraft scanner, ac/dc, nine channel with priority (like new) \$75.00

### Trade for Radio Equipment or Hardware

All of the following which is new and unused:

1/4 - 20X2 3/4 inch plated hex bolts 500-1000 ea.

1/4 - inch plated lockwashers 5000-10000 ea.

#10X2" woodscrews (phillips) 500-1000 ea.

1/4 - 20X1 1/2 in. slotted cap screws 500 ea.

plus other misc. hardware

Contact Frank WA6GYR 680-1436

Wanted: Issues of the CARRIER prior to 1975 for personal collection. Also issues of QST prior to 1932 and 73 Magazine prior to 1970. Doug WA6GON, 1369 Tree Garden Pl., Concord, CA. 94518

To borrow manual for Galaxy 5 just long enough to make a copy - Frank N6GQ 933-2881

### FOR SALE

HW101 W/AC power Supply - Clean - works perfectly. \$275.00

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AEA MBA-RO Morse, Baudot, ASCII II 32 character, LED readout \$299.95

MFJ-410 Processor Morse Keyer/Trainer \$129.95

MFJ-941C Deluxe 300 watt antenna tuner \$89.95

AVANTI AP151.3G 2m windshield Antenna \$38.95

AVANTI AP220.3G 220 MHZ Winshield Antenna \$38.95

TWOFER SALE: Buy a 5/8 wave Telescopic Tuned Antenna for 2 meters at \$19.95 and receive a FREE Shorty Duck too. 2 For the price of 1!

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AEA ISOPOLE 2 meter antenna 3db \$29.95 7db \$39.95

CUSHCRAFT ARX-2B 2 meter Ringo Ranger \$49.95

### FOR SALE

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## The Base Station

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## A Good Emergency Reporter

by Doug Smith, WA6GON  
Concord Police Dispatcher

You're driving on the freeway early one morning on the way to work. A couple of your Ham friends are exchanging their impressions of the sunrise on the local two-meter repeater and turn the mic over to you. Just ahead, two cars travelling at high speed suddenly collide with explosive impact sending debris in a million directions. Other drivers miraculously swerve away from the wreckage. People may have been injured or killed. You realize you are at the scene of a potentially life threatening emergency. You reach for the mic on your radio and...

Perhaps you have witnessed a serious auto accident or even happened upon a mischievous or violent crime. You know from experience that as an Amateur Radio operator you have a unique tool, your radio, with which to alert public safety agencies (1) to emergencies that threaten life and property. A Police Dispatcher can tell you however, that to make this tool work well, the Ham operator should be prepared emotionally and factually to make such reports.

This article will look at emergency reporting from a Police Dispatcher's point of view. Careful consideration of this viewpoint will hopefully enable you to communicate with a Dispatcher more effectively and efficiently, whether on the road or at home.

Few persons actually make good emergency reporters. Some people are acceptably helpful during their conversations with Dispatchers, but quite a few for reasons you will read, are absolutely horrible! As a Ham and a Police Dispatcher I would like to think that fellow Hams are among the group of perfect emergency reporters.

(1) Public Safety Agency: Police, fire, ambulance, search and rescue, etc.

### YOUR EMERGENCY HAPPENS!

What do you do now? Start by using established Amateur Radio procedures to locate a station that can make the emergency call or use your repeater's autopatch. The Amateur making the telephone call should dial either: (1) the Telephone Operator, (2) 911 if his county has it, (3) or direct to the public safety agency that is needed. Every citizen should have important emergency telephone numbers

displayed prominently near each telephone in the house (2). Amateurs should carry a similar list of emergency telephone numbers when mobile. Tape these important phone numbers on the back of your rig or have that list clamped on your car's sun visor.

When the Emergency Dispatcher answers the phone, briefly state what has happened and give your name, address and telephone number. Amateurs using telephone autopatch should obtain the telephone number of another Ham near a phone also on the repeater and give it to the Dispatcher as a call back number. (The call back number is not always needed when reporting accidents, but it may be very important when reporting crimes.) The Dispatcher will then ask you questions until he has sufficient information to safely dispatch the required assistance.

At the time of your emergency, a Dispatcher's questions may seem to take an eternity; however, a Dispatcher's questions are necessary no matter how insignificant they may seem to you. Some exasperated persons will begin arguing with the Dispatcher, "No more questions. Just get here NOW!" These people become extremely antagonistic in their panic only making their predicament that much worse. What these "screamers" don't realize (and when they're told they can't listen) is that a Police Officer, fire or ambulance unit is already on the way. Most large public safety agencies have more than one Dispatcher

working at all times. While one Dispatcher takes information on the telephone the other dispatches public safety units. Even in the smaller on Dispatcher departments, calls for immediate help are often dispatched before the Dispatcher has terminated the call.

### PRIORITIES

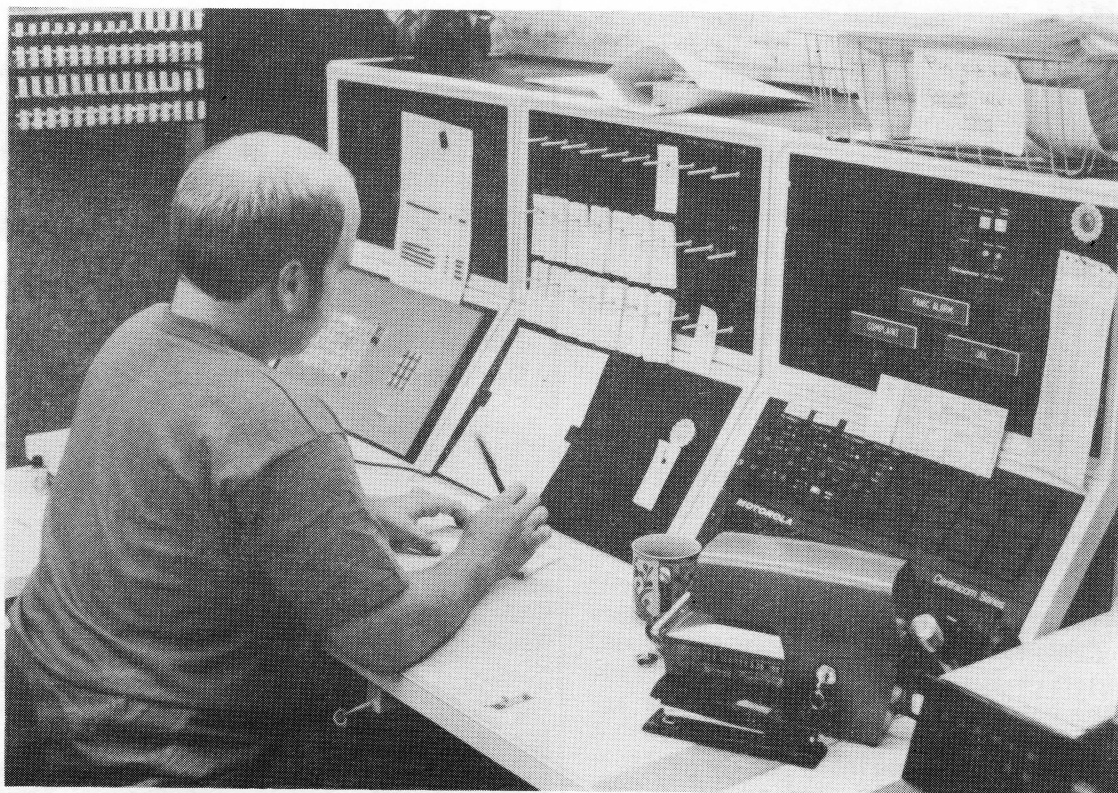
Calls for police assistance are given dispatch priorities once received. Your call must be ranked among other calls from those that are very serious to those that are not quite as serious. Therefore, response to your emergency may not meet your personal expectations. There are simply not enough police units available to materialize at every incident as it is reported.

The police for instance must first respond to accidents and crimes immediately affecting life or public safety. Typical examples would be an armed robbery,





1) Police Dispatcher Jeanette Erwin takes an emergency call and fills out a "CDC", Complaint Dispatch Card.



2) Police Dispatcher John Rousset Transmits information from the "CDC" to a Police unit.



## Emergency Reporter

ight, or other crime against a person in progress. Felonies or misdemeanors affecting property that are in progress or have just occurred take a close second in priority. Suspicious persons, suspicious activities, or crimes about to occur follow in importance. A report involving a felony or misdemeanor that has an unknown time element and where no threat to life or property exists at the time of the call would next require the department's attention.

Police area checks for public nuisances like loud parties, noises, or barking dogs place fifth on this list of priorities. Probably the most common type of call the police receive is this nuisance disturbance report. While it ranks fifth under serious incidents affecting persons and property, police do pay close attention to these calls. Depending on the situation, a disturbance call can suddenly rank number one in priority. The same is true of any complaint a Dispatcher receives. Incidents can include any number of circumstances, hence the reason a Police Dispatcher asks questions!

Never feel that because of the police dispatch priority system your call to the police may be insignificant. The suspicious activity, person, loud noise, or even barking dog may be just a part of an even bigger event. Common sense and your knowledge of your surroundings will help you determine if you should call or not call. When in doubt, call.

As you can see, cooperation with the Police Dispatcher is very important. If you are the only caller from an emergency scene YOU are a wealth of information. Arguing, or refusing to provide information until help arrives may adversely affect the priority of your call or create an even more dangerous situation. A victim's life, a policeman's life, a fireman's life, or catching the crook may depend on you staying on the telephone until the Dispatcher terminates the call.

(2) Your telephone book has important public safety telephone numbers inside the front cover. Blanks are provided to add other numbers you may find useful.

### CONTROLLING EMOTION

Dispatchers are aware that any type of incident out of the ordinary is going to pump you up tremendously, and adversely in some cases. Your heart rate will quicken, your thoughts may not be clear, and your voice may quiver. The Dispatcher

knows that if you're not careful and they don't try to help keep you calm, your mind and mouth may lose control. The person who loses his wits in a pinch is of little use to anyone.

Citizens who collapse emotionally may often blow an emergency report out of proportion or deliberately disguise facts or even lie, expecting faster response. These people may ultimately place themselves or others in serious jeopardy. California law provides, for instance, criminal penalties for false reports of emergencies (148.3 California Penal Code), and false reports of felonies or misdemeanors (148.5 PC).

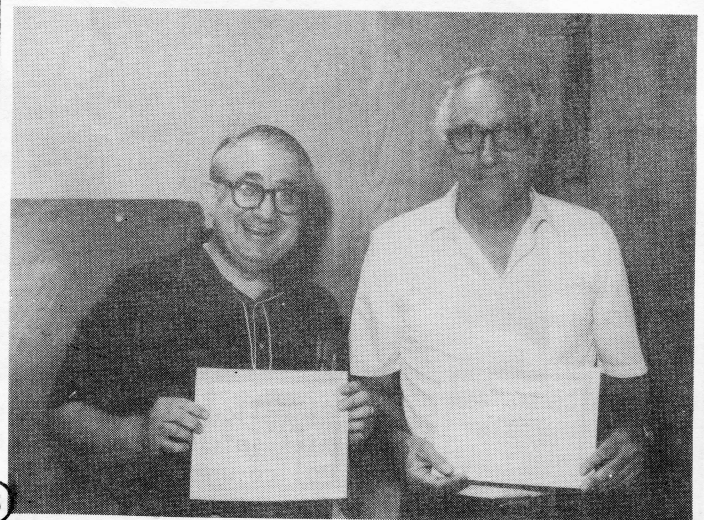
Even more abhorring is this possible situation: Picture the Police Officer who meets two angry citizens storming out of a restaurant clutched in combat. The officer has his gun drawn expecting shooting any minute. Why Well, when the restaurant employee called the police he told the Dispatcher a fight with a gun was in progress. What the employee actually wanted was two rowdy customers removed, who refused to leave. The fist fighting never started until the ruffians left the restaurant. The eventual climax is left to your imagination. (True story.)

Since you now know how irrational some people can become in time of emergency it should behoove you to develop conscious self control when encountering emergencies that raise your stress level. You will become that much steadier with each incident you report.

Next month-Response Time, Color Codes and the best information.

## February GUEST SPEAKERS

Doc Gmelin, W6ZRJ & Al Gaetano, W6VZT





## Westlink Report (formerly HR Report)

CONTACTS WITH CLANDESTINE POLISH personal communicators have been made on both the amateur and C.B. bands despite the ban imposed on such operation by the ruling military regime. Only a few days after the armed forces took over, Seymour Lasonsky, W6CCP, and three other California hams: K6DQ, W6OMR and W6NOL heard an unidentified station claiming to be transmitting from Poland. W6CCP, was operating on 14.210 Mhz. SSB in QSO with a station in Siberia, and it was after signing with that station that he heard a faint CW signal come back to him. Rotating his 7 element 20 meter array to peak the signal he found it strongest when pointed short-path towards Poland. The mystery radio operator used the call sign: SP6/Poland and sent W6CCP the following message:

"Tell the West, tanks all towns. Five million on strike. O.K. Union Solidarity O.K. No food. Cold. Militia is police. Organize food and clothing to children. Col. Now must QRT. Thanks to my U.S.A. Tel. West my QTC."

The QSO lasted about 4 minutes and the Polish station broke several times to be sure that W6CCP was copying. It happened so fast that neither W6CCP nor anyone else had the time to record the QSO, but Seymore and the media believed it to be legitimate.

The next reported personal radio contact with Poland came Christmas eve when a C.B. operator in Wales reported he worked a C.B. station claiming to be in Piastk. Describing himself as one of the striking coal miners, he asked that this message be delivered to the West:

"We are in trouble here. We want the Pope to help us. Many, many strikers here. Conditions very, very poor."

The Polish station reported that all phone lines in the region had been cut and his C.B. was the only way to contact the outside world. This story also made world wide headlines.

10 MHZ IS STILL WELL OFF in the future, so far as U.S. Amateurs are concerned, despite some last-minute efforts by the League and others to push some kind of temporary authorization through by January 1. Though the idea of making the band available for U.S. Amateurs by the January 1st date made possible by WARC '79 did have a fair amount of support from several key parts of the Commission, some questions about details prevented complete acceptance. Another difficulty was opposition among current U.S. users of the 10.10- 10.150

MHz segment, both common carrier and government. As a result, barring a drastic change in the situation as it exists at press time, it's unlikely that the band will be opened to Amateur use in the U.S. until all treaty and rule making procedures are accomplished.

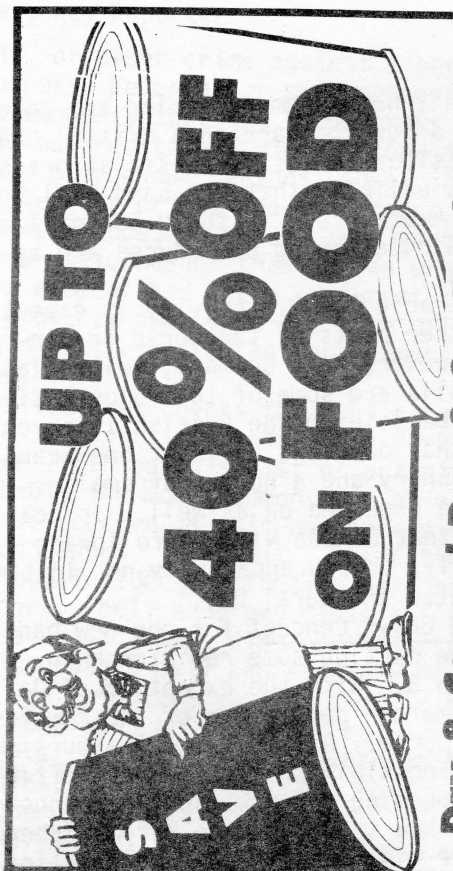
Considerable 10-MHz Activity is expected from other parts of the world on January 1, however, West Germany, Switzerland, and Australia are some of the major nations that will be joining the British Isles on the band that day, and at least one Scandinavian country and a number of smaller nations are expected on as well. Indications are that Canada will be following suit shortly, though apparently not in time for "30 Meter Inaugural Day."

The "CW Only" Concept for the new band seems to be meeting some resistance in IARU Region 3. With the exception of Japan, the Amateur population of the Far East is quite sparse. As a result, Amateurs there (and possibly some government officials) are pushing for some sort of phone sub-band. How that could be accomplished in a 50-kHz wide band is another question.

EXPANSION OF U.S. PHONE BANDS, 220-MHz phone privileges for Novices, and proposals to change some power limits are all likely to be seeing FCC action in the near future. The phone band expansion, despite opposition from outside the country, will probably come up first. The power limit proposals, one to reduce CW power and the other to permit higher power levels for moonbounce work, are likely to be tied in with long-standing FCC attempts to develop new power-specifying techniques.

The Controversial 220-MHz Novice phone proposal may well be considered unacceptable, as it would surely boost FCC workloads.

European amateurs take note. We now have a correspondent in Germany whom you may contact if you have items for either "Report" or the Westlink Radio News. He is Mitch Wolfson, DJ0QN and his address is Carl Von Linde Street, 35; D-8044 Lohhof, West Germany (tel Munich: 103-409). Mitch has served as Westlink's European Correspondent the past three years and has offered similar help to "Report" as well.



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## Late Flash !

It was heard that:  
 Paul St. John N6DN, is getting married  
 March 6. Also  
 Pete Sutherland, WD6DKW, is getting  
 married the 13th of March.  
 CONGRATULATIONS!

Denny WB6SNV is now N6EYX

